

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for waiving the requirement of a new specification. As explained by Applicant on the telephone, an electronic copy of this application is not readily available, and the amendments made herein are relatively minor.

In the preliminary amendment, amendments to claims 1-7 represent amendments to the claims as originally filed in the PCT application. Evidently, the Examiner used claims 1-5 on the amended sheet as the starting point for the preliminary amendment.

Applicant amends claim 1 to correspond more closely to claim 1 on the amended sheet. This includes deleting unnecessary language reciting a particular environment for practicing the claimed method, as well as the unnecessary recitation of plural wafers and plural steps in the preamble. In addition, the limitation of claim 2 is brought into claim 1.

Claim 2 is amended to recite a limitation consistent with that recited in claim 2 on the amended sheet. For similar reasons, claims 5 and 6 are cancelled.

Specification

With regard to the objections to the specification, it appears that one or more headers may have been inserted improperly. Applicant amends the specification by inserting the customary headers at appropriate locations. To minimize the possibility of confusion wrought by the presence of amended pages, Applicant specifies the location of insertion both by page and line numbers and by indicating the first few words of the paragraphs above which the headers are to be inserted.

Consistent with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant amends the "Field of Invention" portion of the specification to include expansions of the acronyms "AA" and "GC." No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Abstract

In response to the Examiner's objection concerning the abstract, Applicant submits a new abstract.

Drawings

Applicant's freedom to insert the requested header appears constrained by 37 CFR 1.84(u)(1), which states that "where only a single view is used...it *must not* be numbered and the abbreviation 'FIG.' *must not* appear." [emphasis supplied]. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the drawing is required to be unlabelled and that the objection to the drawing should be withdrawn.

Claim objections

Applicant amends claim 1 to remove the acronyms altogether. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the claim objection be withdrawn.

Section 112 rejections

Applicant cancels claim 7, rendering the section 112 rejection moot. Applicant also amends claim 1 to address the rejection based on the lack of antecedent basis for "envisaged process," both in the context of time and temperature.

The remaining section 112 rejections would appear resolvable by the insertion of specific numerical values for various rates, periods, and temperatures recited throughout the claims.

However, Applicant's invention does not depend on particular values of these parameters. Since the actual values are not part of the invention, it would be inappropriate to include such values in the claims. Moreover, there has been no citation of prior art that would require limiting the claims by including such values.

Exemplary values associated with a particular practice of the invention are readily determinable from the specification and figure. Accordingly, the claims are not indefinite under section 112.

Now pending in this application are method claims 1-5 and 8-15, of which claims 1 and 8 are independent. No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment. However, to the extent that additional fees are due, or if a refund is forthcoming, please adjust our deposit account 06-1050, referencing attorney docket number "12816-027001."

Respectfully submitted,

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